

Message Text

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, PK, UR, GW, XD
SUBJECT: VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO TO THE FRG
FEB. 18-20

SUMMARY: DURING BHUTTO'S VISIT TO THE FRG HE STRESSED
THE RISING INFLUENCE OF THE SOVIET UNION IN SOUTH ASIA,
PAKISTAN'S NEED FOR ARMS, AND NORTH-SOUTH AS WELL AS
BILATERAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO ARRIVED IN THE FRG ON
FEBRUARY 18 ACCOMPANIED BY A LARGE RETINUE. HE MET
WITH CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT, FONMIN GENSCHER, PRESIDENT
SCHEEL AND OPPOSITION LEADER KOHL DURING A THREE DAY
VISIT. A BRIEF COMMUNIQUE ISSUED UPON THE CONCLUSION
OF THE VISIT STATED THAT BHUTTO HAD RAISED THE NORTH-
SOUTH DIALOGUE, THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE
WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER, AND THE SITUATION IN SOUTH
ASIA WHILE CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT COMMENTED ON FRG NATO,
EUROPEAN AND DETENTE POLICIES. ACCORDING TO DR.
STEGER, SEA CHIEF, FON OFF, BHUTTO WAS PRIMARILY
INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING INCREASING SOVIET
INFLUENCE IN SOUTH ASIA, FRG ARMS, AND THE IMPROVEMENT
OF ECONOMIC RELATIONS.

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2. ACCORDING TO STEGER, BHUTTO STRESSED RISING SOVIET INFLUENCE IN SOUTH ASIA, WHICH HE CONTRASTED WITH THE LOSS OF AMERICAN INFLUENCE. BHUTTO CLAIMED THAT THE SOVIETS USED THIS PERCEPTION OF CHANGE IN THE POWER BALANCE TO PRESSURE PAKISTAN TO ASSOCIATE ITSELF WITH THE SO-CALLED SOVIET COLLECTIVE SECURITY SYSTEM IN SOUTH ASIA. THE SOVIETS QUESTIONED WHETHER PAKISTAN GAINED ANYTHING FROM ITS ASSOCIATION WITH THE US AND OFFERED RUSSIAN ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE IN ITS PLACE. BHUTTO RAISED THE SUBJECT OF INDIA ONLY IN THE CONTEXT OF INCREASING SOVIET INFLUENCE. HE CLAIMED THAT, ACCORDING TO PAKISTAN INTELLIGENCE SOURCES, THE USSR HAD URGED INDIA TO INTERVENE MILITARILY IN BANGLADESH.

3. IN THIS CONNECTION, BHUTTO MADE A PLEA FOR GERMAN WEAPONS DELIVERIES. STEGER EMPHASIZED THAT FRG POLICY REMAINED UNCHANGED. SINCE THE FRG DOES NOT DEFINE PAKISTAN AS AN "AREA OF TENSION," COMMERCIAL SALES OF LIGHT EQUIPMENT IS PERMITTED. EXPORTS OF HEAVY WEAPONS, HOWEVER, ARE NOT PERMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH FRG POLICY TO ALLOW SUCH EXPORTS ONLY TO NATO MEMBERS.

4. STEGER SAID BHUTTO ALSO STRESSED ECONOMIC RELATIONS. NO NEW AGREEMENTS WERE SIGNED. DM 90 MILLION IN CAPITAL AID ON IDA TERMS AND DM 15 MILLION FOR THE COMPLETION OF AN INDUS RIVER DAM, WHICH HAD ALREADY BEEN IN THE PIPELINE, WERE ANNOUNCED. WHEN FRG RAISED ISSUE OF RADICAL STANDS BY PAKISTAN IN WORLD ECONOMIC COUNCILS, BHUTTO CLAIMED THAT PAKISTAN WAS FORCED TO ASSUME THESE PUBLIC POSTURES. HE CLAIMED THAT IN REALITY, PAKISTAN IS A MODERATING FORCE IN THIRD WORLD ECONOMIC DIALOGUES. BHUTTO ALSO ADMITTED THAT THE OIL PRICE RISE HAD ONLY DAMAGED THE ECONOMIC INTERESTS OF THE LDC'S.

5. BHUTTO'S VISIT WENT SMOOTHLY IN BONN. HE MADE A FAVORABLE IMPRESSION ON HIS GERMAN HOSTS WHO CONSIDERED HIM AN ABLE STATESMAN. HOWEVER, BHUTTO ALSO

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SEEMED TO BE SUBJECT TO EMOTIONS AND OCCASIONAL OUT-BURSTS OF TEMPERAMENT.

6. STEGER ASKED THAT WE TREAT WITH CARE THE CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION IN PARA 2.
HILLENBRAND

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